

CITY OF ROCHESTER



REPORT OF Medical Officer of Health

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT
AND
PORT SANITARY DISTRICT

1921

ROCHESTER :
PARRETT & NEVES, LTD., 80, HIGH STREET.

1922.

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City of Rochester.



Report as to Urban District

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

GUILDHALL,

March 29th, 1922.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the following Report as to the Sanitary condition of your District for the year 1921.

The Ministry of Health has issued instructions with regard to certain alterations in the contents of Annual Reports. In future, Reports of a full and detailed character, known as Survey Reports, will only be required every five years. In the intervening years, Reports of a more simple character, known as Ordinary Reports, will be accepted, and the minimum requirements of such Reports are laid down in the Circular of the Ministry. The Reports for 1919 and 1920 will be treated as constituting the first of the series of Survey Reports, and this, therefore, becomes the first of the series of Ordinary Reports.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA (acres)	2936
POPULATION (1921)	31,500 (R.G.)
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1921)	No information.
NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS (1921)	No information.
RATEABLE VALUE (Poor Rate)	£144,186
(General District Rate)	£133,828

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE:—

Borough Rate	£595
Education Rate	£580
General District Rate	£540

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
BIRTHS	Legitimate	677	350	327	BIRTH RATE (R.G.) 22.1
	Illegitimate	21	11	10	
DEATHS		365			DEATH RATE (R.G.) 11.5
NUMBER OF WOMEN dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth ...					{ From Sepsis 0
					{ Other causes 0

DEATHS OF INFANTS under one year of age per 1,000 births:—

Legitimate, 72.3	Illegitimate, 238	Total, 77.3
DEATHS from Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	...	4
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	...	5

The deaths from Diphtheria, 17, are the highest for many years, the average for the preceding 10 years being 4.6.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.													Total Cases Notified in each Locality of the District.	Total number of cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.	
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.															
		Under 1 Year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.				
Diphtheria.....	139	4	5	9	5	84	16	7	8	1				100	39	117	17
Scarlet Fever	52	1	3	2	3	19	11	7	6					36	16	46	1
Enteric Fever	6					2	1	2	1					6			
Puerperal Fever	0																
Pneumonia	9				1			2	5	1				2	7		
Erysipelas	7					1		1	1	2	1	1		3	4		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2												1	1		
Tuberculosis— (a) Pulmonary—M. 13. F. 18. Total 31.....	31					3	4	7	11	2	2	2		17	14		23
(b) Non-Pulmonary—M. 2. F. 1. Total 3.	3						1		1			1			3		5
Totals	249	2	5	8	11	9	109	33	26	33	6	3	4	165	84	163	46

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cases.			Vision Unim- paired.	Vision Im- paired.	Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At Home.	In Hospital.				
	2		2	1			1

NOTES ON THE DISEASES ENUMERATED IN THE FOREGOING TABLES.

DIPHTHERIA.

This disease was endemic in the District throughout the year, and the cases were nearly three times as numerous on the south side of the river as on the north. In all, 139 cases were notified, which is the largest number since 1912, when there were 176. The average yearly number notified in the preceding 10 years is 78.9. The type of the disease was more severe than usual, and the case mortality was 11.1 per cent. In 1921 it was 4.5 per cent.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The six cases notified were all from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where the disease was brought in by a child who infected five others in the same ward. Thus there was no case in any dwelling house in the District, which constitutes a record for the year.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

It is worth noting that no case arose.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-one cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, and there were 23 deaths. The average yearly number of notifications in the preceding eight years is 44.5. Of the 23 deaths registered in 1921, five cases had not been notified. In May the local Medical Practitioners were circularised as to their statutory duties in this matter, but there is evidently still some lack of efficiency, as is further shewn by the fact that while there were five deaths from Tuberculosis, other than Pulmonary, only three cases were notified.

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There was only one outstanding cause during the year, namely, Diphtheria, and this has already been referred to.

5. SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS, AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) The Trustees of Watts' Charity have a staff of Nurses who undertake work throughout the District. They are six in number. Two of them are constantly occupied in District Nursing, and are also registered Midwives under the supervision of the County Council. They attend very few cases, however. The remaining four are what is called Occasional Nurses, and their duties principally lie in looking after chronic or bed-ridden cases of illness.

There is also a District Nurse for the north side of the river.

(b) There are no Nurses available for nursing Infectious Diseases, such as Measles, in the homes.

MIDWIVES.

The control of Midwives is entirely in the hands of the County Council. There are eleven Midwives practising in the District, nine of whom are trained and two *bonâ fide*.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

There is no Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, and there are no Day Nurseries.

There are the three following Clinics:—

- (a) School Clinic provided by the Education Committee, held on five mornings in each week at No. 20, Theobald Square, High Street.
- (b) Venereal Diseases Clinic provided by St. Bartholomew's Hospital, held four times a week, twice for men and twice for women, at the Hospital, New Road, Rochester.
- (c) Tuberculosis Clinic provided by the County Council, and held twice a week at No. 13, New Road, Rochester.

HOSPITALS.

1. Tuberculosis. There is no Hospital in the District for this disease, but many cases are sent to the Sanatoria of the County Council.
2. Maternity. There is no special Hospital for this, but St. Bartholomew's Hospital will receive complicated cases.
3. Children. There is no special Hospital for children, but many are received by St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
4. Fever. St. William's Hospital for Infectious Diseases, the property of the Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board, is situated within the District, and receives cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, and Cerebro-Spinal Fever. Seventy-four beds are available.
5. Small Pox. There is a Small Pox Hospital, also situated in the District and belonging to the same Board, and which has eighteen beds.
6. Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children. There is no provision for these except such as is made by the Poor Law Authorities.

7. Ambulance facilities.

- (a) For infectious cases. The Corporation owns a horse ambulance for this purpose.
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases. There is a motor ambulance for these, which is kept at a central place, and is the property of St. John's Ambulance Society.

6. LABORATORY WORK.

All Laboratory work is undertaken by the County Council at Maidstone. During the year the following examinations were made:—

	Total.	Positive.	Negative.
For Diphtheria	146	45	101
„ Tubercle	86	18	68
„ Typhoid Fever	4	2	2
„ Ringworm	4	4	0

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the Police Station, and is available day and night free of cost.

During the year 74 applications for this Antitoxin were received, and 552,000 units were issued at a cost to the Corporation of £38 18s. 6d. The cost in 1920 was £18 17s. 9d.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS.

The following are in force:—

Infectious Diseases (Preventive) Act, 1890: Adopted in 1890.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890: Adopted in 1891.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907: Adopted in 1909.

Byelaws:—

Slaughter Houses Made in September, 1921.
Offensive Trades (Fish Frying) Made in December, 1911.
Common Lodging Houses (P.H. Act, 1875).

Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885.

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

OPEN PRIVIES.

Twenty-nine open privies were abolished during the year and replaced by w.c.'s. There are still about 170 open privies in the District. In the last 14 years 791 have ceased to exist.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

In the form of a summarised statement I beg to submit my 14th Annual Report on the sanitary inspection of the City.

COMPLAINTS.

Three hundred and thirty-four complaints as to nuisances and defects were received during the year.

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS.

The undermentioned 108 houses were inspected and reported to the Council under the provisions of the Housing Acts:—

Nos. 1 to 9, and 2 to 8, Balls Square	9
Nos. 29 to 35, 75 and 77, Bill Street Road	6
Nos. 133, 133a, 135, 135a, and 137, Borstal Street	5
Nos. 1 to 6, Bullards Square	6
Nos. 2, 5, 7, and 33, Castle Avenue	4
No. 31, Cavendish Road	1
Nos. 17 and 19, Church Street	2
Nos. 13 to 17, Clarence Avenue	3
Nos. 9 and 23, Cliffe Road	2
Nos. 1 to 3, Crown Court	3
No. 59, Cuxton Road	1
Nos. 142 to 152, Delce Road	6
Nos. 1 to 6, Factory Cottages	6
Nos. 75 and 82, Grove Road	2
No. 21, Gun Lane	1
Nos. 1 to 3, Hospital Lane	3
Nos. 17 and 19, Henry Street	2

Nos. 1 to 4, Little's Terrace ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. 3, Marsh Street ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nos. 3, 14, 20 and 24, Mayfair ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. 110, Montfort Road ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nos. 33 to 41, and 45, Morden Street ...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nos. 31, 33 and 35, Princes Street ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Nos. 41 and 43, Richard Street ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nos. 1 and 3, Roach Street ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nos. 28 to 32, Rose Street ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Nos. 5 to 8, St. Bartholomew's Lane ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nos. 64 and 65, Station Road ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nos. 15, 22, and 33 to 37, South Eastern Road ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Nos. 32 to 36, Wickham Street ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Nos. 60, 133, 139, 141, 147 and 149, Weston Road ...	...	...	...	...	...	6
						108

Three houses, Nos. 106, 108 and 108a, Delce Road, which in 1920 were scheduled for repairs under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, were in the past year made the subject of Closing Orders. On the premises being vacated they were demolished by the owner.

Demolition Orders were made with regard to Nos. 91 to 103, Frindsbury Road, and No. 50, Wykeham Street. All these houses, excepting No. 103, Frindsbury Road, had been under Closing Orders since 1920. The Closing Order relating to the house last mentioned was made during the year under report. At the end of the year, however, the Demolition Orders had not been given effect owing to the inability of some of the tenants to find other housing accommodation.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

In addition to the 108 houses inspected under the Housing Acts, nuisances were discovered on 628 other premises, and action was taken to have the offending conditions remedied. The following table gives details of the various defects remedied and of sanitary improvements effected at properties in the City during the past year:—

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS.

No. of Houses re-drained ...	...	...	...	...	...	115
No. of Houses partly re-drained ...	...	...	...	...	...	29
No. of Schools re-drained ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective drains repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Drains unstopped and cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	...	190
New ventilated soil pipes fixed ...	...	...	...	...	...	13
New ventshafts fixed ...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Soil pipes or ventshafts repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Privies abolished and replaced by w.c.'s ...	...	...	...	...	...	29
New w.c. apartments built ...	...	...	...	...	...	33
W.C.'s provided with new pans and traps ...	...	...	...	...	...	197
W.C.'s provided with flushing apparatus ...	...	...	...	...	...	153
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	...	102
New cesspools dug ...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Cesspools deepened ...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Cesspools repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Old cesspools filled in ...	...	...	...	...	...	26
New sinks fixed ...	...	...	...	...	...	166
Trapped sink waste pipes fixed ...	...	...	...	...	...	269
New lavatory basins fixed ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
						1517

Water Tests applied ...	...	...	304
Smoke Tests applied ...	...	...	242

MISCELLANEOUS.

No. of houses closed ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of houses demolished ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water supply laid on in house ...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Water supply laid on in P.H. urinal ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Roofs repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	195
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	196
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drain ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Damp walls remedied ...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Yards re-paved ...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Yard paving repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	100
New wash-houses built ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Additional light to rooms provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective floors repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	238
Defective windows repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	551
Defective wall and ceiling plaster repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	575
Dirty walls cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	...	895

Dirty ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	662
Dirty houses cleansed (tenants' neglect)	...	...	...	...	...	8
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	...	...	...	...	...	15
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	556
Total number of defects remedied, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5759

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

Total number of loads removed by day gang	...	...	...	7656
Number of loads removed by night-soil men:—				
From Cesspools	...	...	...	1446
From Privies	...	...	...	380
				1826

The above figures show increases of 173 and 153 respectively on the number of loads removed during 1920.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following unsound food was condemned during the past year:—

3 carcasses, etc., of cows	...	(tuberculosis)
1 forequarter of a steer	...	„
2 hindquarters of a cow	...	„
7 carcasses of pigs	...	„
9 ox heads, and 6 pigs' heads	...	„
13 ox livers	...	(6 tuberculosis, 3 tumours, 3 parasites, 1 cavernous angioma)
4 pigs' livers	...	(cirrhosis)
115 lbs. imported beef	...	(bone taint)
80 lbs. sausages	30 lbs. flour	
17 imported rabbits	28 lbs. figs	
350 eggs	20 lbs. biscuits	
100 lbs. tea	79 lbs. corned beef	
2 cwt. sugar	5 tins meat paste	
1 cwt. beans	7 tins fish	
1 cwt. peas	8 tins milk	
1 cwt. tapioca	22 tins fruit	
1 cwt. sultanas	1 bottle pickles	
56 lbs. flaked oats	2 quarts of vinegar	

It was necessary to take action in connection with a factory where potato crisps were being made under unsatisfactory conditions. The proprietor acquired new premises where the business is now carried on with much better equipment.

DISINFECTION.

213 rooms were disinfected after the occurrence of cases of infectious disease.
44 rooms were fumigated with the view of destroying vermin.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND OFFICE WORK.

Inspections.

Primary inspections of premises	...	...	...	...	...	628
House to house inspections	...	...	...	...	...	108
Caravans inspected	...	...	...	...	...	31
Re-inspections after service of notices	...	...	...	...	...	1503
Visits to work in progress	...	...	...	...	...	2293
Visits to factories and workshops	...	...	...	...	...	71
Visits to bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	33
Visits to slaughter-houses, and food inspections	...	...	...	...	...	394
Visits to cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	60
Visits to offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	6
Visits to stables and mews	...	...	...	...	...	150
Visits re infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	328
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	479
Total	...	...	...	...	...	6084

Office Work.

Letters received and dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	1136
Complaints received and dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	334
Letters written	...	...	...	...	...	481
Intimation notices served	...	...	...	...	...	736
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	...	83
Notices sent out re cesspools and privies	...	...	...	...	...	651
Notices sent to schools re infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	229
Number of plans of new drainage drawn	...	...	...	...	...	116
Reports of Health Committee	...	...	...	...	...	62

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. TOPPING.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are seven in the District, five of which are registered and two licensed. They have been systematically inspected during the year, and many additional visits have been paid at other times and at times of slaughtering. New Bye-laws with regard to Slaughter Houses came into operation in September, and one of the most important of these laws is the compulsory use of the Humane Slaughterer. The general condition of the Slaughter Houses cannot be described as satisfactory, one or two of the premises being old and dilapidated and some of the others are not sufficiently cared for. As reported last year, complete supervision at times of slaughtering has been impossible owing to the pressure of other work.

DISINFECTION.

The Disinfection of rooms and their contents is usually carried out by formalin vapour or spraying, or by the use of Sulphurous Acid Gas. In exceptional cases soft articles are taken to St. William's Hospital and treated by steam disinfection. One or other of the above measures is always undertaken after the termination of a case of Infectious Disease or after the removal of the patient to Hospital.

No measures of Disinfection of persons have been undertaken during the year, but facilities are available in case of need at the Medway Union Infirmary, situated without the District, but within easy reach.

ACTION UNDER DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

All the above are systematically inspected and visited at other times. While the conditions are by no means generally satisfactory, it has not been necessary to institute any legal prosecution during the year.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Owing to the serious illness of the Analyst the work under this heading was interrupted, and the following figures are for 9 months only :—

Article.	Number.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
Milk	41	32	9
Lard	16	16	—
Margarine	13	13	—
Vinegar	4	4	—
Butter	3	3	—
Cream	3	2	1
Preserved Cream	2	2	—
Cheese	1	1	—

Percentage of adulteration, 12.

Average percentage in preceding 10 years, 14.2.

Percentage of adulteration of milks, 21.9. In 1920 it was 23.4.

PROSECUTIONS.

Four prosecutions in respect of milk adulteration were undertaken, and the following fines imposed :—£3 3s. od., costs, £1 os. od., and £5 os. od.

MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS.

No specific action under these regulations was taken during the year.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The staff is as follows :—

Medical Officer of Health. Also Port Medical Officer, School Medical Officer, and Medical Superintendent of St. William's Isolation Hospital. Whole time. A contribution is made to this Officer's salary.

Chief Sanitary Inspector. Whole time. A contribution is made to this Officer's salary.

This Officer holds the Meat Inspection Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

First Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Whole time. No contribution is paid.

Second Assistant Sanitary Inspector (temporary). Whole time. No contribution is paid.

First Health Visitor. Whole time. A contribution is paid to this Officer's salary, and she holds the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, and is an Inspector of Nuisances by examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Second Health Visitor. Whole time. Her qualifications are as for the First Health Visitor, and a contribution is paid.

Clerk. No contribution is paid.

9. HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	101
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	94

Inspection.

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	505
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	108
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	104

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	390

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.	
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	58
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:—	
(a) By owners ...	*58
(b) By Local Authority, in default of owners ...	2
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	
	0
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	25
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(a) By owners ...	*37
(b) By Local Authority, in default of owners ...	0
C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.	
1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	4
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	4
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ...	0
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	8
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0
6. Number of dwelling houses demolished voluntarily by the owners after Closing Order had been made ...	3

* Both these figures include houses which were under Statutory Notice previous to 1921.

10. GENERAL.

With the object of maintaining a continuous record for future reference the following tables and other information are included in the Report.

A. TABLE OF COMPARISON FOR THE YEAR 1921.

	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Infant Mortality per 1,000 births.
England and Wales ...	22.4	12.1	83
96 Great Towns ...	23.3	12.3	87
148 Smaller Towns ...	22.7	11.3	84
London ...	22.3	12.4	80
Rochester ...	22.1	11.5	77.3

B. VENEREAL DISEASE.

The following are the figures for cases of Venereal Disease for Rochester treated at the Clinic at St. Bartholomew's Hospital during the last five years:—

Year.	New Cases.	Attendances.
1917	15	—
1918	31	118
1919	87	175
1920	72	278
1921	63	705

C. LOCAL RAINFALL IN 1921.

12.99 inches of rain fell in the District in 1921. The average rainfall for the preceding 10 years is 24.4 inches.

D. RATS.

During the year 6,214 rats were destroyed by the Corporation Rat-catcher, and their bodies recovered. In 1920 the number was 4,390.

ST. WILLIAM'S ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Four hundred and nineteen cases were admitted during the year. The average for the preceding 10 years is 284. Four hundred and one cases were admitted in 1920.

ROCHESTER.						Total from Rochester.
Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Diphtheria.	Total		
Under Five ...	9	0	18	27		163
Five and upwards ...	37	0	99	136		
CHATHAM.						Chatham.
Under Five ...	15	1	28	44		247
Five and upwards ...	100	1	102	203		
FROM NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES.						Neighbouring.
Under Five ...	0	0	3	3		9
Five and upwards ...	3	0	3	6		
	164	2	253	419		

Bacteriological examination of patients in the Hospital, for purposes of diagnosis and before discharge, are made whenever it seems desirable.

The mortality was as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	No death
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	11.1 per cent.

Cases considered wrongly diagnosed are not included in the above.

Average number of days detained in Hospital :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	47.9
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	32

Cases which terminated in death, and cases wrongly diagnosed are not included in these averages.

The operation of Tracheotomy was performed on seven patients, of whom five recovered.

The type of Diphtheria was appreciably more severe than in recent years, and many cases did not reach the Hospital until the disease was well established.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1921 and previous Years.
NAME OF DISTRICT.—ROCHESTER.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.				of Non- residents regis- tered in the District.	of Residents not regis- tered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.	Number.	Rate.			Number.	Rate per 1,000 nett Births	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1916	33002* 30332†	707	710	21·5	472	15·5	117	57	53	74·6	411	13·5
1917	32211* 28896†	588	598	18·5	574	19·8	252	51	54	90·3	373	12·9
1918	31727* 28316†	590	603	19·0	647	22·8	239	63	54	89·5	471	16·6
1919	33449* 32110†	584	602	17·9	543	16·9	222	44	40	66·4	365	11·3
1920	33849* 33389†	788	803	23·7	535	16·0	201	47	54	67·2	381	11·4
1921	31500	673	698	22·1	492	15·6	177	50	54	77·3	365	11·5

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 2,936.

* For Birth Rate. † For Death Rate.

TABLE II.

Causes of Death.					Males.	Females.
(Civilians only). ALL CAUSES.					192	173
1	Enteric fever	..	..	..
2	Small-pox	..	..	..
3	Measles	..	..	..
4	Scarlet fever	..	..	..		1
5	Whooping cough	..	..	..	1	3
6	Diphtheria	..	..	..	9	8
7	Influenza	..	..	..	7	4
8	Encephalitis lethargica	..	..	
9	Meningococcal meningitis	..	..	
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system				12	11
11	Other tuberculous diseases	..	..		3	2
12	Cancer, malignant disease	..	..		18	24
13	Rheumatic fever	..	..	..
14	Diabetes	..	..	..	3	2
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	..	..		5	7
16	Heart disease	..	..	..	22	19
17	Arterio-sclerosis	..	..	..	12	6
18	Bronchitis	..	..	..	19	19
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..		11	10
20	Other respiratory diseases	..	..		4	1
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	..			3	2
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	..			2	3
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	..	..		1	1
24	Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	..	3	1
25	Acute and chronic nephritis..	..			3	5
26	Puerperal sepsis..	..	..	..
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	..				
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	..	..		13	5
29	Suicide	..	..	..	3	1
30	Other deaths from violence	..	..		3	4
31	Other defined diseases	..	..		35	32
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	..				2
Special Causes (included above)						
Poliomyelitis						
Polioencephalitis						
Deaths of Infants under 1 year						
Total					35	19
Illegitimate					2	3
TOTAL BIRTHS					361	337
Legitimate					350	327
Illegitimate..					11	10
POPULATION					31,500	

This Table is supplied by the Registrar-General.

TABLE III.
INFANT MORTALITY.

1921. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

ROCHESTER DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 9 Months.	9 Months and under 12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes.	{	Certified	10	7	3	1	21	11	9	5	6	52
		Uncertified ..										
Measles												
Whooping Cough								1	1			2
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)												
Convulsions			1	1			2	1				3
Laryngitis												
Bronchitis				1			1	2	3		2	8
Pneumonia (all forms)								3	1	1	4	9
Diarrhoea												
Enteritis.....								1		3		4
Injury at Birth.....												
Congenital Malformations			1		1		2					2
Premature Birth			8	2	1		11	1				12
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus				2	1		3	1	2			6
Other Causes				1		1	2	1	2	1		6
Totals			10	7	3	1	21	11	9	5	6	52
Nett Births registered during the calendar year			legitimate, 677. illegitimate, 21.			Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year			legitimate infants, 49. illegitimate infants, 5.			

The Registrar General gives 54 as the total number of deaths under one year, of which two cannot be traced and are not included in this Table.

The Table shews that the Total Infant Mortality Rate was 77·3 per 1000 births ; that the same rate amongst legitimate infants was 72·3 and amongst illegitimate infants was 238.

In 1920 the respective figures were 67·2, 61·6 and 240.

Report as to Port Sanitary Authority.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT SANITARY COMMITTEE.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GUILDHALL, ROCHESTER.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you a Report of the Sanitary Work performed during the year 1921.

FORM A.

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT SANITARY DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1921.

			Number.	Tonnage.	No. Inspected.	No. reported to be defective.	No. of orders issued.
Foreign	Steamers	...	166	83490	131	48	48
	Sailing	...	188	12430	182	9	9
	Fishing	...	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign			354	95920	313	57	57
Coastwise	Steamers	...	193	93255	193	101	101
	Sailing	...	71	5131	70	21	21
	Fishing	...	14	—	14	—	—
Total Coastwise			278	98386	277	122	122
Total Foreign and Coastwise			632	194306	590	179	179

FORM B.

No organised measures for the destruction of Rats were undertaken during the year, but on request the Corporation Rat-catcher visited one or two ships, particularly a steamship laid up in the Port, and altogether 301 rats were destroyed. All were brown rats, and none were submitted to special examination. The methods used were poisons and dogs, the rats in the latter case being bolted by a smoke producing box.

FORM C.

No vessel entered the Port from a plague-infected port.

The following were also boarded by the Port Sanitary Inspector:—

Barges	...	...	...	...	...	932
Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	...	182
Lighters	...	...	...	...	...	147
Water Boats	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fishing Boats	...	...	...	...	...	14
Total number of vessels inspected	...	...	...	...	...	1867
Total number in 1920	...	...	...	...	...	2011
„ „ 1919	...	...	...	...	...	1973
„ „ 1918	...	...	...	...	...	1952
„ „ 1917	...	...	...	...	...	1980
„ „ 1916	...	...	...	...	...	1932
„ „ 1915	...	...	...	...	...	2467
„ „ 1914	...	...	...	...	...	2914
„ „ 1913	...	...	...	...	...	2733
„ „ 1912	...	...	...	...	...	2652

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS.

British, 1,804; Norwegian, 15; Swedish, 10; French, 9; German, 8; Dutch, 8; Belgian, 7; Danish, 6.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The chief imports are Timber, Coal, China Clay, Flour, Fruit, Stone, Corn, and various Seeds and Kernels for making Cattle Cake.

The chief articles exported are Cement, Cattle Cake, and Oil.

Import Trade is carried on with Scandinavian, French, Dutch, German, and Baltic Ports in Europe, and with Chinese and West African Ports.

Cement is shipped to practically all parts of the world, either direct or first taken to London for trans-shipment.

The principal British Ports with which trade is carried on are the Tyne, Humber, Tees, and Sunderland, most of the Scottish Ports, Liverpool, Dublin, Bristol, Cardiff, Swansea, Barry, and London.

PORT OF ROCHESTER.

REPORT AS TO THE EXECUTION OF CANAL BOATS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1921.

Name and Address of Inspector:—Henry Evans, 63, Weston Road, Strood, Rochester.
Remuneration £4 per annum.

No boat was detained during the year.

Number of new boats registered	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of boats re-registered owing to structural alterations	...	...	...	...	...	0
" " " " for other reasons	...	...	...	...	...	0
" " " on Register on December 31st, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	142
" " " inspected	...	...	...	...	...	182
" " " with one or more infringements	...	...	...	...	...	24
Total number of infringements	...	...	...	...	...	31
" " " " remedied	...	...	...	...	...	31
" " " women on boats inspected	...	...	...	...	...	3
" " " children under five years	...	...	...	...	...	2
" " " boats on Register	...	...	...	...	...	142

CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFRINGEMENTS.

Masters without Certificates	...	...	...	...	...	3
Boats not properly marked	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cabins not in cleanly condition	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cabins out of repair	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cabins requiring to be painted	...	...	...	...	...	4
Boats with defective bulkheads	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drinking water tanks to cleanse	...	...	...	...	...	6
Leaky decks causing wet berths	...	...	...	...	...	4

No case of Infectious Disease was met with, nor was it necessary to take legal steps in respect of any infringement.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK IN THE PORT.

Systematic inspections of the shipping of the Port are made and vessels specially visited, and their crews medically inspected as occasion requires. Under an agreement with the Port of London their Medical Officer at Sheerness inspects all ships bound for the Port of Rochester.

The facilities for visiting shipping in the Port of Rochester consist only of one small rowing boat, and there is no proper place in which even to keep this. There is no boat ambulance for the removal of patients from ship to shore, and there is no provision for cleaning and disinfecting verminous persons and their belongings, although in the latter case the disinfecting station at the Medway Union Infirmary would be at the disposal of the Port Authorities.

The local Hospital for Infectious Diseases receives cases of Small Pox, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria.

WATER BOATS.

Two boats are used for supplying ships with water for drinking purposes. The tanks of each boat have been cleaned out and lime-washed four times during the year.

CASES OF SICKNESS.

Venereal Disease.—The local facilities for the treatment of Venereal Disease are fully made known to each vessel entering the Port. No case was reported during the year.

Forty-three cases of other sickness came under observation, fifteen of which were Influenza; the others were not of a serious nature.

PASSENGERS.

As far as known, no passengers arrived in the Port.

CARGOES.

Cargoes of Flour, Malt, Wheat, Beans, Oats, Barley, Fish, Potatoes, and Fruit were examined and found to be in good condition.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Otterham Quay, Halstow, Whitewall, and Janes Creek were visited from time to time and call for no special remark.

Riverside factories and wharves have been periodically visited and the Port Regulations duly posted.

Twelve dead dogs found on the foreshore were buried.

SHELL FISH BEDS.

There are shell fish layings in the lower reaches of the River, and while it cannot be said that the River is free from pollution, the shell fish gathered from these layings are invariably found to be clean on the occasions of the frequent examinations to which they are subjected.

The following Table shews the number of notices served by the Port Sanitary Inspector during the year on vessels, other than Canal Boats, and the nuisances discovered and dealt with:—

	Foreign.	Coastwise.	Barges.	Total.
Forecastles to cleanse	41	57	0	98
Cabins to cleanse	1	0	15	16
Forecastles to paint	2	6	0	8
Cabins to paint	0	0	3	3
Defective light in cabins or forecastles ...	1	0	1	2
Defective ventilation in cabins or forecastles	2	4	0	6
Leaky decks causing wet berths	2	5	2	9
Drinking water tanks to cleanse	15	12	23	50
Defective bulkheads	0	0	7	7
Stoves and funnels to renew	4	1	2	7
Dirty bedding to cleanse	1	0	0	1
To remove ship's stores from crew space ...	0	0	0	0
W.C.'s to cleanse and disinfect	18	33	0	51
Peaks and lazarettes to cleanse and limewash	2	1	0	3
Side scuttles and deck prisms to refit ...	5	7	0	12
Bilges to cleanse and disinfect	0	2	11	13
Defective floors in cabin or forecastle ...	1	2	4	7
Food cupboards to cleanse, paint or ventilate	6	24	3	33
Dirty old beds burnt	4	1	2	7
Defective scuppers in forecastle	2	0	0	2
Defective skylights	0	0	3	3
Skylights to glaze	0	0	9	9
To remove filth from forecastle	5	3	0	8
Sleeping berths to paint	8	0	3	11
To provide bottom boards to sleeping berths	0	1	4	5
Skylight and scuttle hatch combings to caulk	2	0	6	8
To repair w.c. seat and doors	2	0	0	2
Seat lockers to repair	0	7	5	12
Cabin ladders to repair	0	3	3	6
Leaky hawse pipes into forecastle	2	0	0	2
Inadequate ventilation to Engineer's room	1	0	0	1
Manhole door to provide to drinking water tank	0	1	3	4
Bow lockers to clean out	0	3	0	3
	<u>127</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>409</u>

All notices were complied with.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,

Medical Officer of Health.